

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A wireless network adapter, comprising:
- wireless communication circuitry encased in a shell;
- wherein the shell is a detachable molding element of an electronic device.
- 1 2. The wireless network adapter of claim 1 wherein the wireless communication circuitry
- 2 comprises:
- a modulator configured to produce a transmit signal suitable for conveying data on a
- 4 wireless link; and
- a demodulator configured to produce a baseband signal that conveys information received
- 6 via a wireless link.



- 1 3. The wireless network adapter of claim 1 further comprising:
- a bus connector adapted to couple the wireless communication circuitry to an expansion
- 3 bus when the shell is attached to an outer surface of an electronic device having said expansion bus
- 1 4. The wireless network adapter of claim 3 further comprising:
- an RF antenna for communication with a wireless network; and
- a radio modem comprising a bus interface, a baseband controller, and a radio transceiver
- 4 that combine to modulate data onto a radio frequency carrier signal.
- 1 5. The wireless network adapter of claim 4 wherein:

the RF antenna is a dedicated unit housed within the shell of the wireless network adapter. The wireless network adapter of claim 4 wherein: 6. the RF antenna forms a part of the shell of the wireless network adapter. 2 The wireless network adapter of claim 4 wherein: the RF antenna forms a part of a company logo or identifying mark located on the shell of the wireless network adapter. The wireless network adapter of claim 4 wherein: the RF antenna is a multi-mode antenna configured to transmit and receive signals conforming to multiple RF standards. The wireless network adapter of claim 4 wherein: the RF antenna incorporates diversity antenna technology. A computer sy a system microprocessor; an expansion bus coupled to the microprocessor and configured to transport data to and 3 from at least one input/output/device; an input/output device operatively coupled to said microprocessor; and 5 an expansion port connected to the expansion bus, wherein the port is configured to accept 6

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a detachable molding element.

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The computer system of claim 10 wherein:

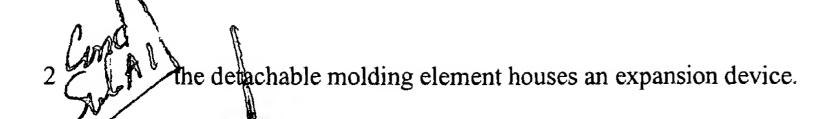
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The computer system of claim 10 wherein:



- 1 14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the expansion device is a camera.
- 1 15. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the expansion device is a biometric security
- device.
- 1 16. The computer system of claim 11 wherein:

the RF antenna of the wireless network adapter forms a part of a company logo located on the shell of the molding element.

- 1 17. The computer system of claim 11 wherein:
- 2 the exterior case of the computer system functions as the RF antenna of the wireless
- 3 network adapter.
- 1 18. A computer system, comprising:
- 2 a system microprocessor;
- an expansion bus coupled to the microprocessor;
- an input/output device operatively coupled to said microprocessor; and
- an expansion port connected to the expansion bus configured to accept a wireless network
- 6 adapter;
- wherein the expansion port is attached to the exterior case of the computer system.

The computer system of claim 18 wherein:

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A laptop computer which comprises:

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2	a clamshell case having a shroud and a lid, wherein the shroud has a keyboard which is
3	protected by the lid when the lid is in a closed position, wherein the lid has a
1	display which is protected by the lid when the lid is in the closed position; and
5	an expansion port, wherein the expansion port is located proximate to an upper edge of the
5	lid when the lid is in the open position.

- 1 24. The computer of claim 23, further comprising:
- a multifunctional module coupled to the expansion port, wherein one of the functions of the multifunctional module is as a wireless link adapter.
 - 25. The computer of claim 24, wherein a second of the functions of the multifunctional module is decorative embellishment of the lid.
 - The computer of claim 24, wherein a second of the functions of the multifunctional module is as a latch release for the lid.